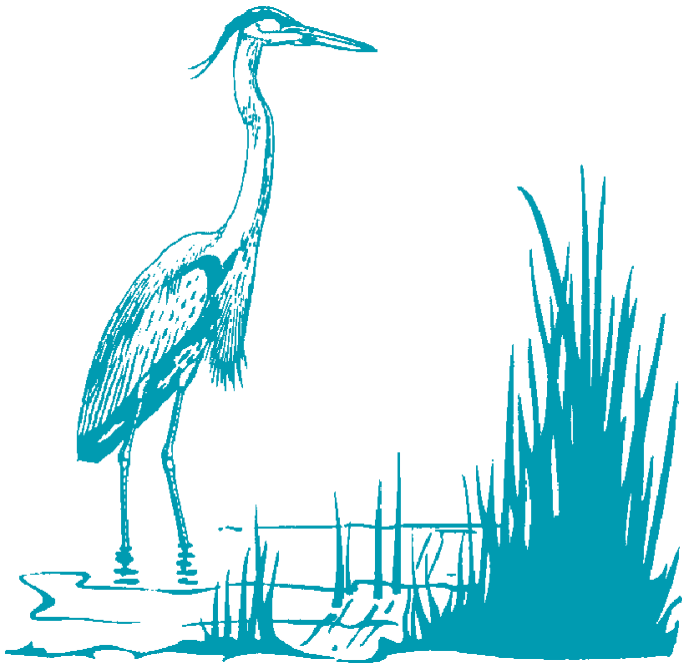


## Soil Conservation

Soil that erodes annually from Indiana's landscape would fill enough full size pickups to reach the moon—and return!

The Division of Soil Conservation helps landowners keep soil and nutrients in place and productive.

Control of soil and water runoff can increase profits for farms and developments, decrease food costs, reduce flood damage, and improve water quality for humans and wildlife.



## A Lake is a Reflection of its Watershed

A watershed is the land area that drains into a particular body of water - such as a wetland, stream or lake.

Soil erosion, excess fertilizer, and uncontrolled runoff from watersheds around lakes and rivers impairs recreational use, destroys fish and wildlife habitat, reduces flood control capacity, and pollutes drinking water supplies.

***The LARE Program enhances and protects water quality in Indiana's lakes and rivers!***

## Lake and River Enhancement

The Lake and River Enhancement Program (LARE) provides technical support and funding for lake and watershed studies, agricultural practices to improve water quality, constructed wetlands to reduce soil erosion and nutrient runoff, and related watershed projects.

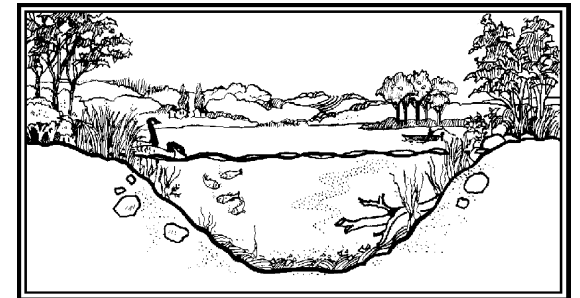
Since 1987, over 140 lakes and 45 watersheds in 42 counties have benefited from the \$830,000 a year in grant and cost-share assistance that is generated by a state-collected \$5 annual boat fee.

## Restoration and Protection of Crooked Lake

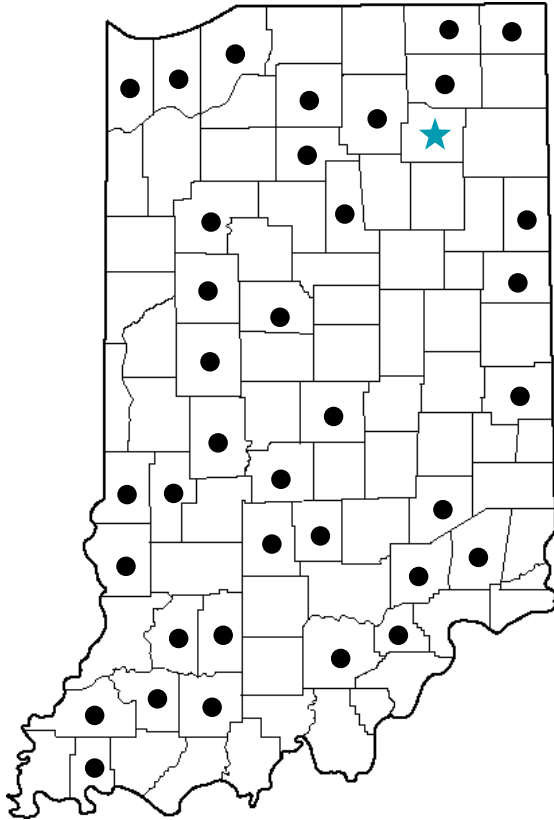
At the headwaters of the Tippecanoe River in northern Whitley County, Crooked Lake shines as a true gem of Indiana lakes. The lake supports several endangered species, including the cisco, or lake trout. Over the years, soil erosion and excess nutrients have contributed to decline in water quality and habitat for rare species.

In 1998, the Crooked Lake Association used LARE funds to complete construction of a wetland to trap damaging sediments and nutrients in an inlet stream. Staff from IDNR, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and the Noble and Whitley County Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) provide technical advice to landowners on reducing soil erosion and chemical runoff.

Landowners and lakefront residents can work together to bring Crooked Lake back to a healthy state by protecting shoreline plants, using fertilizers only as necessary, and preventing erosion through conservation tillage and stream bank stabilization.



# Lake And River Enhancement Project Sites



- Each dot represents a county containing one or more LARE Projects.
- ★ Crooked Lake is located in Whitley County – represented by a star.

## You Can Get Involved!

For more information,  
please contact:

**IDNR Division of Soil Conservation**  
402 West Washington Street, Room W265  
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2739  
(317) 233-3870  
[www.dnr.state.in.us/soilcons/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.in.us/soilcons/index.html)

**Whitley County Soil and Water  
Conservation District**  
1919 E Business 30  
Columbia City, IN 46725-9809  
(219) 244-6780

**Noble County Soil and Water  
Conservation District**  
100 E Park Drive  
Albion, IN 46701-9797  
(219) 636-7682

**Crooked Lake  
Property Owners Association**  
380 Gates Road  
Columbia City, IN 46725  
(219) 244-5714

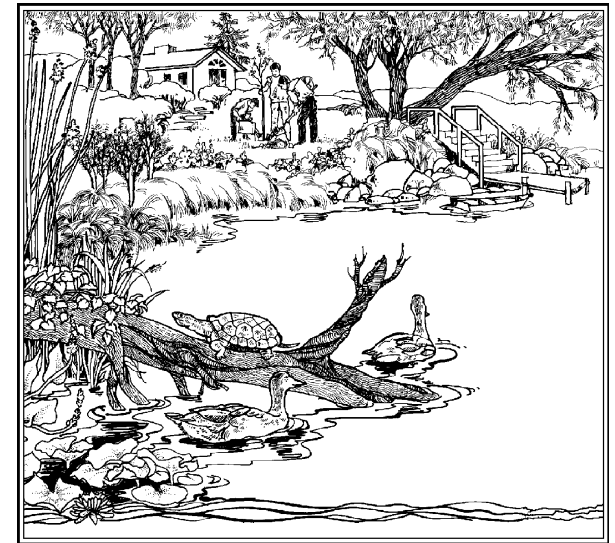


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# Lake And River Enhancement Program

## Crooked Lake Whitley County



Indiana Department of  
Natural Resources  
Division of Soil Conservation